

western cape scouter



December 2022



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scouting experience in portugal



The first meeting I went to I struggled to communicate and say what I was thinking because I didn't understand the Portuguese at all.

I made two scout friends out of the first few meetings who would explain to me what we were supposed to do.

They were easy to talk to as they were really good at English. In a couple of meetings I was able to understand a

few words then based on other's reactions I could figure out what was going on.

At the first or the second camp I went too I learnt some Portuguese songs and shouts.

I really struggled with that and forgot them all now but learning them was fun and I realised my pronunciation was really bad so we got a few laughs at that. After I had been going for a few months I got used to it and found it easier to communicate and have fun.

At the last meeting I went to before coming back to South Africa I played a funny song called "by die hoener" and spent some of that meeting translating it. It was nice to end my last meeting for the year with laughter.

Sarah Hemphill - Scout 1st Stellenbosch

regional commissioner's reflections



What a pleasant way to wrap up the Scouting year and start to plan for the next, by reading the action filled activities of Groups across the Western Cape.

December is often called the crazy season and this year has been no exception with the Adventure, Troop camps, Star Awards, National Challenges, School Holiday Hikes programme and all the Meerkat Cub, Scout and Rover activities at Appleton, Sea Scout Base and Hawequas.

Take time to relax and reflect on your own Scouting and Adventures as you read through this delightful edition that comes to you courtesy of Nigel Forshaw the editor. Nigel is also RTC Scout Programme but is handing over that portfolio to Monet van Antwerpen from January 2023. A huge thanks to Nigel for his 7 years of commitment and vision around the Scout Programme delivery and a special welcome to Monet to the role and the Regional Management team.

On behalf of the Regional Team I thank all our readers for their support and involvement in bring action scouting to all our nearly 4000 youth members, and wish all our adult members and their loved ones a Merry Christmas, Fantastic Festive Season and an Action filled Scouting 2023.

Warm Greetings

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

editor's desk

It has been a bit of a rush for me to get the Western Cape Scouter out before the end of 2022 but here it is nevertheless. It is fantastic to be able to report on the successful 23rd Senior Scout Adventure for the first time in 6 years.

There are a few Groups who are submitting articles on what is happening in their Dens, Packs and Troops but more such articles from other Groups, Districts and Rovers are always welcome.



Although my term as RTC Scout Programme ends this year, I will still be around to do other jobs, some of which are already defined. Many thanks to all those who have assisted in staffing and running badge courses and competitions, Star Awards and the management of Springbok Scouts since 2015. Lets welcome Monet.

The closing date for the next edition of the Western Cape Scouter is 24 March 2023.

May I wish those who celebrate Christmas a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter

23rd senior scout adventure



The 23rd Senior Scout Adventure took place from 15-23 December 2023 after a hiatus of six years. The HQ and starting and finishing point was at Keurbos which is 11km from Clanwilliam. For those who don't know this is an adventure for senior scouts over the age of 15 and under 18 in teams of eight to ten Scouts. Adults also attended the Adventure in all-adult teams. There were 272 hiking participants and 110 staff

members. Teams hiked through the mountains, sometimes trail camping high up in the Cederberg mountains while others spent nights at activity centres or "bases" where fun activities were enjoyed.

Our bases were Water Activities - Clanwilliam Dam, Archery - Keurbos, Pizza - Grootkloof, Command Course - Perdekloof, Dutch Oven - Perdekloof, Astronomy - Perdekloof, Mountaineering - Wolfberg Arch, Rock



Climbing - Tafelberg, Gold Rush - Kleinvlei, Geocaching - Boontjieskloof and Settler Culture - Heuningvlei.

The first people forming the advance party arrived in early December. There was an incredible amount of work to do with setting up the radio network, transporting equipment to bases, pitching tents and laying electric cables just to mention a few such jobs that had to be done.

23rd senior scout adventure

The Adventure Committee comprising Andre van Der Walt - Adventure Organiser, John Mutti - Adventure Advisor, Rod Harker - Quartermaster, Conrad Thomas - Treasure, Brian Goemans - Secretary, Simon - Merchandise, Nigel Forshaw - Trips Planner and David Knight - Staff organised the event.

We believe the Adventure was a huge success and we were pleased with the end result. However, the Scouts are the ultimate judges of this.

Nigel Forshaw - Trips Planner



23rd senior scout adventure



Senior Scout Adventure Cederberg

Published by Nigel Forshaw · 17 December at 08:54 ·

Scouts being greeted, welcomed and arriving at the Senior Scout Adventure at our headquarters at Keurbos, Cederberg



236

24 comments 12 shares

Above: The most “Liked and Loved” page on the Adventure’s Facebook site.



23rd senior scout adventure



paint the lion purple

October has become to be known as Purple Month when Scouts from the Western Cape meet at the foot of Lions Head in the late afternoon with the intention of summiting by 6:00pm for a group photograph. The hike to the summit happens every Thursday.

The event was well supported on each and every Thursday although attendance for the very first summiting was affected by the cloudy and misty day. At one stage we thought we might have to call it off but luckily that was not to be and it went ahead.

The last two summits had over 113 and 116 members of Scouts SA on top of Lions Head. It is a lot of fun and good exercise. The fast people do it in 40 odd minutes or less but I prefer a more leisurely trudge which takes about 65 minutes.

Although October 2023 seems a long way away, why not diarise every Thursday in October to climb Lions Head and be part of a great advertisement for Scouting?

Thanks to all the participants over the four Thursdays and Rover Crews for hosting the evenings.



Nigel Forshaw - Regional Team Coordinator Scout Programme



brother/sister to all scouts

At 1st Muizenberg, we have initiated a drive focused on Community Service and Development of Scouting in our Community and surrounds. Our Cub Pack has been working with 1st Retreat Cub Pack as part of a development initiative, some of our Scouts have been assisting at 1st Kirstenhof Pack and Troop to develop the new Group in our District. Our Meerkat Den also wanted to get involved with the development of Scouting in our Community. As there are currently only two Meerkat Dens in our District (including ours), the Den decided to branch out and focus their attention on how they could assist in other areas of the Scouting Community. We love what Scouting in Schools and Year Beyond is doing for the community, so we decided to find out if there was any way in which we could assist.

"Scouting is delivered to over 90 000 youth by 8600 volunteer leaders nationwide. The programmes are either offered in Scout Groups in local communities or in Primary and High Schools. In the Western Cape SCOUTS SA and its partners run an exciting Scouting-in-Schools extra-curricular programme! Scouting in Schools aims to bring Scouting to a wide range of underprivileged schools in conjunction with the Year Beyond programme that provides much needed services to our most vulnerable communities by creating opportunities for unemployed youth to do meaningful work."

One of our past Assistant Troop Scouters and current Scout Parent, Roshaan Solomon-Jhilmeet has been working as a Mentor in the Mitchells Plain Year Beyond Cluster, so we decided to approach her to find out what we, the Meerkat Den could do to help. Roshaan indicated that they were currently working towards raising funds for 3 microwaves (one for each cluster) for the Yeboneers (Year Beyond Interns) to warm their lunch on Fridays as they have limited facilities available.

The Meerkat Den was more than happy to take on the challenge. Our Den Scouter, Rafiki aka Marihett Bredenkamp, ran a cake sale on Friday 5 August in place of the usual Den Meeting. We wanted to run it somewhere that experienced plenty of foot traffic, so we got permission to run it right outside our local Pick n Pay.



brother/sister to all scouts

Our Den Scouter sent an appeal out to the parents, and they were happy to contribute. Pick n Pay was kind enough to erect a gazebo for us to operate from and the Meerkats put up a sign that they had beautifully decorated the week before. The Meerkats ran the cake sale from 15h00 - 17h00 in half hour shifts according to their Burrow under the guidance of our Den Scouters.

They had a great time selling their wares with the help of our 3 Meerkat Instructors who also joined in. The parents outdid themselves with brownies, fudge, donuts, custard cups, toffee apples, cupcakes and more which we were very grateful for.

One of our future pups popped by and was walking around encouraging people to support the stall. Another one of our new pups brought her family of 8 to come and buy some sweet treats for the weekend. We even had support from our Cubs who came by to say hello.

The cake sale was a resounding success, and our Den Scouter was very happy to present a "cheque" for R 3 267.00 to Ahmad Solomon and Roshaan Solomon-Jhilmeet from Scouting in Schools. The Meerkats learned a lot from the event, and we were very happy to be able to contribute to this incredible venture.

Angela Lee-Wright - Scout Group Leader 1st Muizenberg



edward shield

After two years without the Edward shield being run, the Cub packs of the Western Cape descended on the Sea Scout Base in droves. 25 packs attended bringing with them just under 300 cubs all eager to show off the skills that they have been learning.

This year's theme was "Let the games begin" and as the name suggests the day consisted of a series of games for the cubs to enjoy and provided an opportunity for the different packs to interact and make new friends.

While the games were underway, individual cubs were tested on a wide range of skills that are found in the Cub Trail. These ranged from knotting, first aid, road safety, fire safety, home safety, membership, compass directions and more.

In general the knowledge of the cubs was very impressive and overall their behaviour was impeccable.

The Pack Scouters can be proud.



edward shield



At the end of the day there has to be a winner. The top 5 for Edward Shield where:
1st place: 1st Bergvliet, 2nd place: 2nd Bergvliet Toomai and 1st Durbanville, 4th place: 1st Muizenberg, 5th place: 2nd Bergvliet Lukannon. Well done to these packs and to all the packs that took part. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Richard Steinhofel - Edward Shield Chief Judge



joy to huis nuweland



The 1st Claremont Meerkat Scouts visited Huis Nuweland in Newlands to bring good cheer to the 74 old people.

They sang Carols and handed our carefully made Christmas ornaments to everyone. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the singing – and joined in with all the songs.

When the Meerkats went to talk to older folk, they discovered that one had a son who was a Springbok Scout and one had been a girl guide in Nottingham UK. Said

Lorraine, the manager, "The residents and staff loved every minute - they would welcome the Meerkats back anytime."

Making craft items is part of the Meerkat Life Skills Theme (Handcraft Badge) as well as the Out of the Box Interest Badge.

It is a careful balance to ensure that the task the Meerkats are set can be done in a short amount of time, and yet be pleasing and even useful.

On this occasion we had glue guns on hand – and then load shedding hit.

Ever prepared, we pulled out the cold glue and were able to keep the ornaments still for a week while they set.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter, 1st Claremont



1st durbanville news

The 1st Durbanville scouts outshone many other troops this weekend at the annual Gordon Shield scout competition when their A Team came second out of a total of 35 teams. The competition was held at Hawequas Scout Ranch in Wellington.

1st Durbanville entered two full teams and loaned two of their scouts to the 1st Paarl troop who needed another two team members to make a full patrol. The 1st Durbanville B Team came 19th and the overall winners of the competition were 6th Rondebosch.



1st Durbanville scouts came 2nd at the Gordon Shield competition: Back Row from left to right: Zoey le Roux, Matthew Stead (Assistant Patrol Leader), Hannah Murphy, Tristan Casaleggio (Patrol Leader), Daniel Wilbraham, Keagan Coetzee, Logan Washer. Front Row: Aphiwe Ntunja

(Ed. Full Gordon Shield results are available in the September 2022 issue of the Western Cape Scouter and is available on Scout Wiki).

Nothing declares the start of spring quite like purple month! It was with great excitement that the 1st Durbanville scouts met at Lion's Head on 6 October this year to "Paint the Lion Purple".

Once again 1st Durbanville participated in all four "Paint the Lion Purple" events and one of our scouts, Liam Coetzee, did all four hikes.

The 1st Durbanville scouts recently won the annual Kanonkop District Catapult competition which was held at Kenridge Park in Durbanville.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



hawequas memorial garden

For my Springbok Award, I had to choose a community service project which would assist a community, group or charity. Many who had come before me told me to make sure it was something meaningful and important to me. I set out to find the perfect project. After many failed attempts I remembered what my PLTU tutor, Sean Farnham, had told me about a plan to build a memorial garden at Hawequas. I got in contact with the people in charge and the rest is history.

Shortly before the project was to take place, I made a trip up to Hawequas where I was to meet Paddy Milner, Aussie Raad and Kuba Miszewski to discuss the project, where it would take place and what the end product should look. We decided upon having the garden replace where Tiger's Village used to be, with a small extended area into the bush for spreading ashes. The plan was to have the sheds that used to be there removed, the area generally cleaned and cleared and a pathway and signage set up.

On the first day of the first weekend we arrived at Hawequas early to get to work. While explaining the danger of snakes at this time of year to the younger scouts, in a dramatic twist of irony, my APL came running from the bathroom screaming about a puff adder in the doorway. So we made sure to give the snake some room and rather use the bathrooms in the house. We began first with clearing the wood



scraps, dead material and dead leaves from the general area. This took up most of the day and exhausted, we headed to the house for dinner and an early night

On day two of weekend one we sawed down dead trees on the border of the area, dead material off the standing trees and laid out a border with rocks. We made sure to gather all the material in one place to make it easy to dispose. Once we had the full area cleared, we had a discussion with Kuba about where to go next with the project. It was decided that the following weekend should be dedicated to laying out a pathway from the entrance of the memorial garden to the space at the bottom as well as into the area for spreading ashes. It was also decided by Paddy, Kuba, Aussie and me to erect a memorial wall in the space at the bottom of the garden.

haiwequias memorial garden



On the second weekend we spent most of our time collecting rocks and laying a pathway which went down to the memorial wall section and broke off about halfway to loop around the area for spreading ashes.

We then completed the pathway we sank the poles for the wall and gave the area a general cleaning.

I once again had a discussion with Kuba regarding what to do on the final weekend and we agreed that the scouts and I should finalise the wall as well as put up signage for the various areas in the memorial garden.



hawequas memorial garden

On the final weekend, armed with belt sanders, drills, laser engraved signage and Waksol we began working on completing the wall and creating a space for a memorial rock pile in the middle of the area for spreading ashes. Once we had completed the wall and sunk poles for the signs, we did a final sweep and cleared the area of litter, dead plant material, etc. The project was now finished.

There are plans for the future to plant an olive tree border around the garden.

I am incredibly grateful that I was given the opportunity to give back to the scout movement in this way and create something that will hopefully become a special part of Hawequas.

This project, although not my original plan for my community service, turned out to be a fun and meaningful way to give back to the movement. Thank you to Paddy Milner, Aussie Raad and especially Kuba Miszewski for the support and help with this project.

The Hawequas Memorial Garden is now open.

Ethan Stopforth - 1st Blaauwberg Scout

(Ed. Well done to Ethan for assisting in the development of Hawequas)



quinn trophy

The Quinn Trophy took place at the Sea Scout Base on Sunday, 16 October 2022.

After a stressful start to the day navigating road closures for the Cape Town Marathon, we eventually made it to the base just in time for registration. 25 teams from 16 different Troops in the Province registered and competed for the Quinn Trophy, as well as a number of adult teams – a great show after the two-year Covid-hiatus.



The day kicked off with an opening ceremony and PL's briefing, announcing this year's theme – CARNIVAL! – And immediately went into the first rotation of bases. Rotation 1 had our teams worried the Trophy would not be in our sights again this year but things quickly started turning around –

The Scouts (and adults) all seemed to have a fantastic time playing the various games at each of the bases, aside from some injuries sustained.

The competition halted for lunch where the pancake competition was introduced and the Scouts were able to show-off their cooking, presentation skills – the pancakes were delicious, and apparently, the judges thought so too!

Lunchtime also gave the teams a chance to get their creative juices flowing and work on their STAs. What's a Carnival without masks? It's not, so naturally one of the creative aspects of the competition was to create identical masks for each team member, fitting the Carnival theme – they were fabulous!



quinn trophy

Other STAs included writing a poem titled The Mystery Dancer, where a budding poet was able to make their debut, cracking codes, and making 30 identical 'stamp' emblems.

After a day of competing (against other teams and the sun), it came time for the closing ceremony and announcing of the winners of the Quinn Trophy 2022....

With each number called, the tension grew.....until eventually our two teams were on the edge of their seats (grass?) and finally, with a one-point difference, 3rd Pinelands was announced as first and second, bagging the trophy for the 12th time in its history.

When asked how the Scouts felt about winning, one of the Scouts shouted "I love this competition" and the celebrations began.

Congratulations too to 6th Rondebosch for winning the annual Cape Times Cross Country Trophy, and for all the Troops who participated and made the competition what it was.

I couldn't be prouder of the 15 Scouts in our two teams for their efforts, good sportsmanship and perseverance in this competition. A huge thank you to the Chief Judge, Jason Raad, and all the judges and people who put such a fantastic competition together.

Here's hoping we can keep it in 2023....

Melissa Rijs - Troop Scouter 3rd Pinelands



POSITION	TEAM NO	TEAM NAME	MARK
1	A9	3rd Pinelands A	177
2	B7	3rd Pinelands B	176
3	C5	1st Durbanville A	165
3	B8	2nd Bergvliet B	165
5	B5	6th Rondebosch A	157
6	B2	1st Wetton A	152
7	B6	2nd Fish Hoek A	149
8	A7	2nd Bergvliet A	145
9	C1	1st Darling C	133
10	B1	1st Darling B	131
11	C4	1st Gordons Bay B	128
12	C8	1st Kirstenhof A	127
13	C6	2nd Fish Hoek B	124
14	C3	1st Muizenberg A	121
15	A1	1st Darling A	119
16	A5	1st Ottery C	117
17	A4	2nd Hout Bay A	112
18	A8	1st Ottery B	109
19	A6	6th Rondebosch B	108
20	A2	1st Retreat B	100
21	C2	1st Retreat A	93
21	C7	1st Fish Hoek A	93
23	B4	1st Gordons Bay A	92
24	B3	1st Ottery A	91
25	A3	1st Muizenberg B	89

quinn trophy



meerkat scouts skills upgrade

On 1 October there was much laughter coupled with learning as Meerkat Scouters from throughout the Western Cape met for a Skills Day at the Fernwood Scout Hall. Says Regional Team Coordinator (Meerkats) Judith Bishop "This was the first Skills Day we have had and it certainly was a success. In a relaxed atmosphere, Scouters shared experiences of running Dens, discussed their challenges, networked and had fun."



At the Skills Day, each Den had a display table for a "Show and Tell". It was fascinating to see how different Dens marked Burrows and tackled badges. The Scouters went round three bases on The Badge Programme, Scouts Digital (an online administration system), and Outings. In the relaxed setting of a braai, we shared stories. For example, one Den could not get children to listen to nature, whereas another could. Techniques were swapped. A common problem is the need for new leaders. Anyone interested in joining Meerkats as a leader can contact Judith on 082 301 5220.

The Western Cape has 108 Meerkats in 14 Dens at the moment, stretching from Darling to Sedgefield. Formal training for Scouters consists of a Warrant course which runs at the start of each year. By March 2023, the majority of our Scouters will be warranted. The next stage is a Wood Badge, which is expected to be offered in late 2024.

Scouters also undergo extensive formal training for their roles throughout the year, some involving high level First Aid or Water Awareness. The Skills Day concentrated on understanding how the training was implemented in practice by Dens all over our Province. A highlight of the day was Regional Training Commissioner Peter Otzen presented Warrant Certificates to Marihett Bredenkamp (Den Scouter, 1st Muizenberg) and Lucy de Toit (Assistant Den Scouter, 1st Claremont).



Others who had completed their Warrants were Jacqueline Pugh (Bothasig) and Monique Tuffin (1st Pinelands).

Judith Bishop - Regional Team Coordinator Meerkat Programme

jacob leaves hawequas



Many of you will have met Jacob at Hawequas, where he works on Monday's and Tuesday's. Jacob is leaving us after 13 years of great work. He is one of those people who knows how to use all farm implements, how to cut down trees, all the irrigation and plumbing on Hawequas and a whole lot more, not to mention that he was also our tractor driver .

Jacob lives on the next-door farm, where they want him to work every day from the new year. We are going to miss his sharp wit and his great sense of humour!

With the floods and road damage we had at Hawequas, we have not had time to do a farewell function, which we will do in the new year. If anyone would like to make a donation for Jacob, please send it Charmaine/Eleanor at headquarters, marked clearly for Jacob's farewell.

Kuba Miszewski - Manager Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre

meerkats "doing" science

The Scientist badge is one of the Meerkat Interest Badges and probably one of the most fun badges to do. When we do science, we go all the way. We combined two of the badge requirements, 1) With an adult, make a volcano. 2) With an adult, carry out a simple baking soda and vinegar experiment to show how the chemical reaction makes something move.



Our Meerkats made the dough themselves from flour, salt, and water to build the volcano around a 500ml bottle, which formed the volcano chamber. The bottle had red coloured vinegar in it, which is one component of the chemical reaction. When the volcanoes were done, one could feel the excitement in the air and it was time for the eruptions. Each Meerkat added their own bicarb to their own volcano. Adding bicarb to the vinegar, the second

component, created a red foam that flowed out of the bottles, and all the volcanoes erupted. The laughter and smiles were priceless.

Marihett Bredenkamp (aka Rafiki) - Den Scouter 1st Muizenberg



newsletters - the early days

In the very early days of Scouting, the communication method used by many organizations, including Scout Headquarters, was by placing notices in the columns of the daily newspaper, the Cape Times. These were weekly announcements and provided instructions to the groups and news from Headquarters. When this was discontinued by the newspaper, bulletins, notices and competition entry forms etc. were then mailed via the Post Office to Scouters and groups as and when required.

On Trek was the first official Scouting journal for the Cape Province, it was based in Cape Town and was published from 1919 to 1922. It covered a vast area as the province stretched all the way to the Natal border and inland to Kimberly and beyond. The magazine was of a very high and professional standard and made a valiant attempt to report on groups and events, but sadly, probably due to costs, it only lasted four years.

On Trek however reappeared in 1923 as a supplement to the Red Cross Western Cape magazine 'Our Health'. It made up the last six or seven pages of the publication and was used for news from the groups and official announcements. This collaboration and medium of communication was particularly successful and continued through to 1926.

Cape Western or Western Cape?

The Scout Provincial organization which was far too large and unwieldy to administer came to an end in 1927. It was replaced by a Divisional organization, creating the following divisions; Cape Midlands, Cape Border, Cape Griqualand and Cape Western. This is how and why for many years we were known as Cape Western instead of the more

generally accepted term, Western Cape.

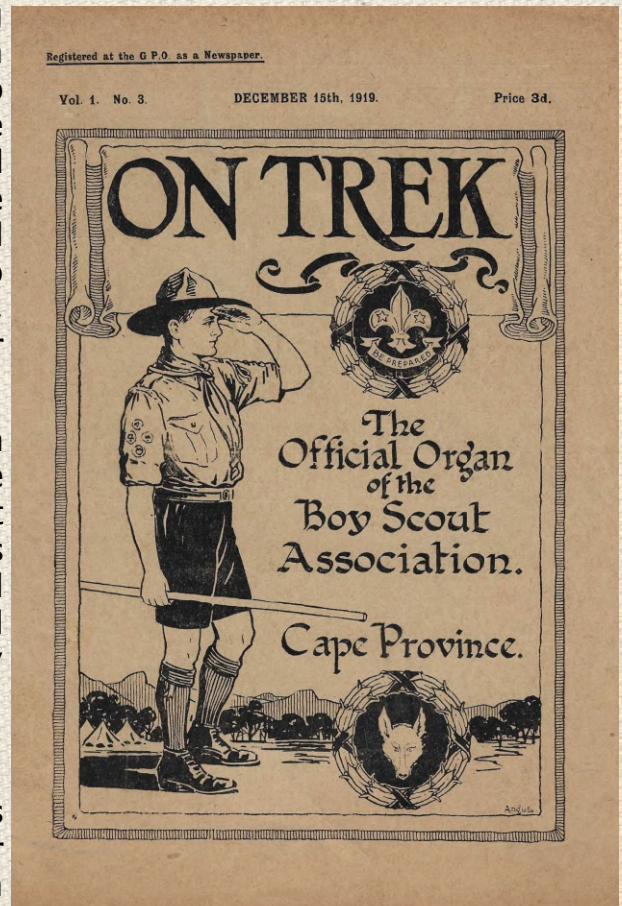
Scouty News

Scouty News was the next publication to appear and ran from 1929 to 1937.

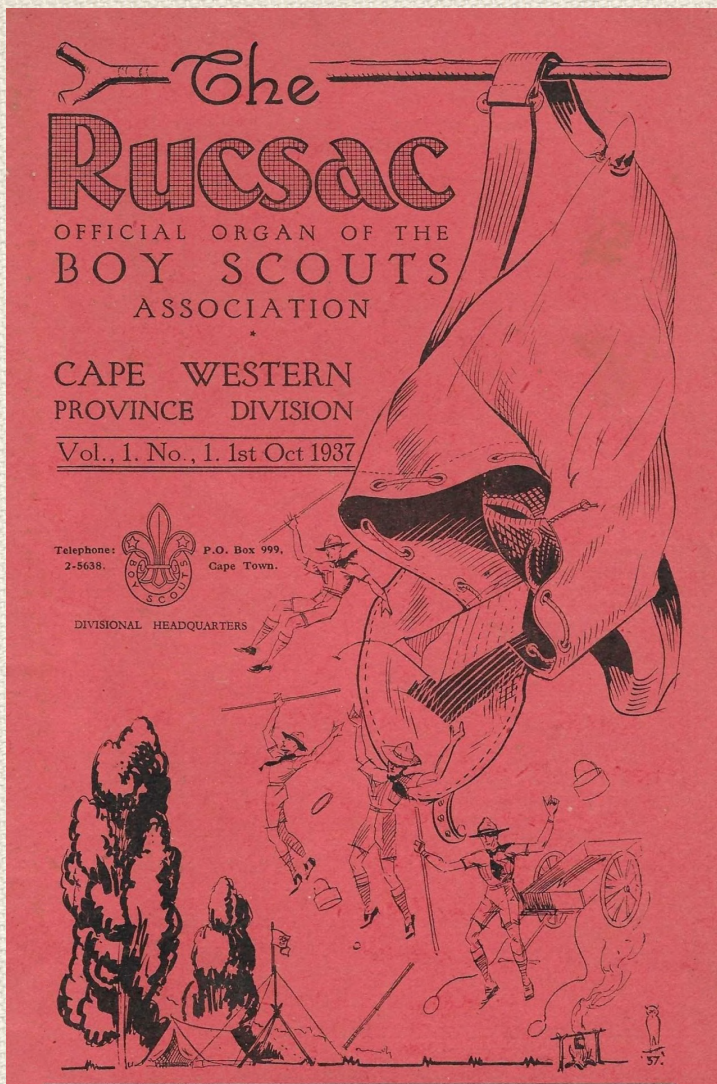


As was often the case, financial limitations dictated the format and a booklet was not possible. It was an 'in house' production managing both the editing and printing. Initially plain white 'foolscap' paper was used, but later changed to blue.

Who can remember a 'Roneo' or 'Gestetner' machine? The Roneo machine provided copying technology as photocopiers and the internet were yet to be invented. Stencil duplication was a low-cost printing method that worked by forcing ink through waxed-paper stencils on to target paper. 'Masters' were prepared by using a typewriter or drawing on stencil papers, and mistakes were corrected by brushing them out with a specially formulated correction fluid, and retyping once it has dried.



newsletters - the early days



Needless to say, the duplication quality varied! The Roneo machine that was used for Scouty News is in the Gilwood Museum and the younger readers can ask Google what a typewriter is.

The Rucsac

Regular formal meetings, often monthly were the norm, and these were used to disseminate administrative information as to what was happening in the division and advance notices of events to come. Newssheets and the like however, gave a far greater insight as to what was happening in the groups covering their activities like camps, hikes and Jamborees etc.

The Rucsac was a return to the booklet format and was launched in October 1937. Content was comprehensive, with many groups keeping up a steady supply of news. It was the main media for headquarters notices and editing was of a high standard. For the first year it was a smallish booklet format and then changed to a larger and glossier version and now included photos of various events. Sadly, once again subscriptions and donations were

unable cover the cost and the last edition was February 1939.

On Service

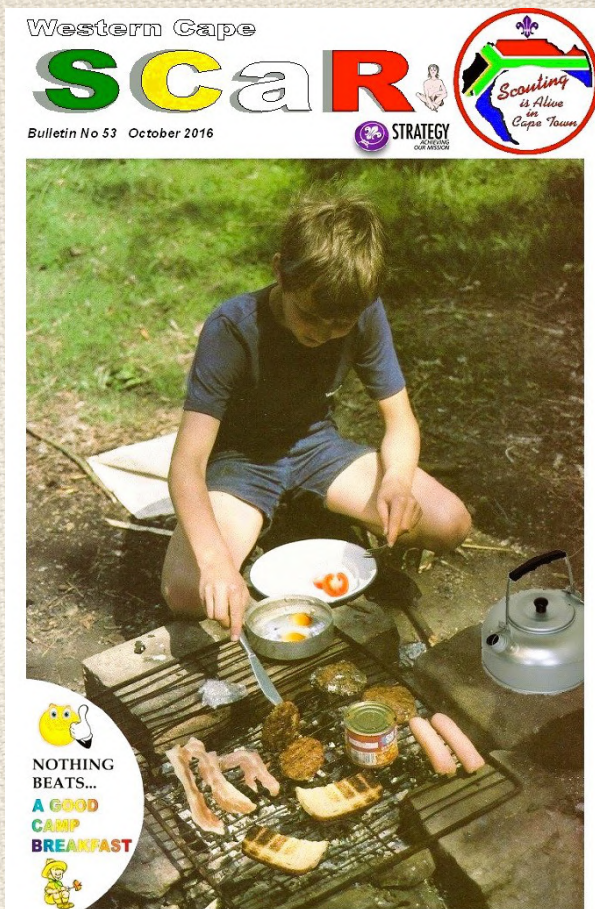
The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 had a huge effect on the adult leadership with numerous Scouters and Rovers joining the war effort with what was termed 'Active Service'. East and North Africa and then Italy were amongst the various places they were sent to and news from the Cape Western Division was to follow them. This was done by mailing a publication called 'On Service' which was started in 1940 and carried on to the end of the war in 1945.

During this period the traditional information bulletins were issued by headquarters advising upcoming events, competition results, etc. On Service was also distributed locally and when it was discontinued there was a request for the continuation of a news bulletin. This resulted in Scouty News being restarted in 1946 and continued until February 1952.

Cape Western Scouter

The Cape Western Scouter was first published in March 1952 and ran for a mammoth 56 years. Initially, it was basically a rebranded Scouty News, but importantly it was now the official Headquarters Gazette. As technology advanced the production and printing of the magazine took on various formats.

newsletters - the early days



At one stage a photostat copier was used, but the editor still had to physically cut out pictures and text and neatly paste them onto a sheet of paper for photocopying. By the mid 2000's editorial contributions from our members had dwindled, and the monochrome magazine was last published in August 2008.

SCaR (Scouts Cubs and Rovers)

This was an online newsletter primarily for Western Cape Scouting and was published for 10 years from 2006 to 2016.

This full colour publication was now able to make use of modern computer programmes enabling the editor to effortlessly format the content and insert photos to create a truly informative and interesting magazine.

Contributors were able to simply email their stories and photos of events to the editor, but in the end, these became less and less and the publication came to an end in 2016.

Western Cape Scouter

And now we have the Western Cape Scouter which was first published in July 2019, long may it continue.

Note: Complete sets of all the paper-based publications are in the Scout Archives and the online ones are on the Scout Wiki site.

Stuart Ravenscroft - The Archivist Scout Heritage Centre

seamanship competition

Seamanship 2022 was held at the Milnerton Aquatic Club at Rietvlei.

On Friday the Saldanhas were all trekked over the border to the far distant north from their cosy home at the Sea Scout Base and were laden with gear necessary to camp and sail and compete. Crews reported for duty and set up camp.

Saturday saw a good strong wind to sail in and tested the sailing skills of the helmsman and crew. While the rest of the sailing world is trying hard to promote women in sailing, scouts in the Western Cape is leading the way with both first and second place in the sailing being awarded to boats helmed by female scouts. Well done to Hannah Sasman(2nd Plumstead) and Gabriella Willemse(2nd Bergvliet).

Gourmet burgers were presented to the judges for dinner and scouts spent their time on land working hard on their STAs.

The pulling was gruelling with much muscle strain and brute strength displayed, with 2nd Plumstead dominating and winning 3 races. 2nd Bergvliet won the Seamanship Endurance Race.

seamanship competition



Skills were honed, lessons were learnt, friends were made and much laughter was shared. Overall results were as below:

1st - 2nd Bergvliet No 18, 2nd - 2nd Plumstead No 17, 3rd—1st Bergvliet No 32, 4th - 1st Muizenberg No 22, 5th - 1st Muizenberg No 3, 6th - 1st Durbanville No 33, 7th - Girl Guides No 4

Craig Burchell-Burger - RC Water Activities



seamanship competition

While preparing for Seamanship, we found this photo of the Seamanship competition in 1994. The photo shows the 1994 2nd Bergvliet winners after they had just received the trophy from Neville Coxon.



The scout holding the trophy is Thomas Henshilwood, and 5 scouts to the right of him is Gunther Henshilwood. Matthew Henshilwood was on the 2nd Bergvliet team this year. Thomas is his uncle and Gunther is his dad.

Although we usually only wear our sailors hats at ceremonies held inside our hall, our team decided that it would be

cool to take them to seamanship this year. We thought we would resurrect an old tradition. The hats worked their magic and we honoured another tradition, taking home the trophy!

Gabriella Willemse - PL Seamanship Team 2022

(Ed. The above Scouts are Thomas Henshilwood, Neil Shelly, Philip Solomon, Duncan Stephenson, Craig McKune, Gunther Henshilwood and Savvas Bizinos)



summer solstice at hawequas

We have the Polar Bear Swim at Hawequas to celebrate the winter solstice 21/22 June and for a while have thought we should do something for the summer solstice.

A plan was hatched – we would do a midnight swim on the 21/22! There was some uncertainty whether anyone apart from Mambo and me would pitch at midnight? The night of the 22 December was clear, with a slight chill in the air! As I waited at the dam from 23h30 eight brave swimmers came walking up, with a handful of spectators.

On the stroke of midnight, the countdown started and in we went, the water being warmer than the outside air so we stayed in the water while Mambo charged around the dam making sure all were safe.

The consensus was that we now need to make this an annual event and definitely at midnight!

Special thanks to 1st Wetton who supported the event and some of our regular neighbours!

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Manager



1st muizenberg meerkats

We had such a great Meerkat camp, and I want to share every minute of it with the Western Cape Region.

1st Muizenberg and DK Meerkats had a full, fantastic camp at the Rotary Youth Campsite in Glencairn.



During the opening parade, the Meerkats were sorted into camping burrows. Each burrow member (Meerkats and siblings) received a buff in the colour of their burrow. Each burrow had a Scouter as the burrow leader.

After the opening parade, the burrows decided on their camping area and went to pitch their tents. The Meerkats were actively involved in pitching the tents with their parents.

A quick lunch was prepared by the burrow parents before we headed off to the beach. Cool and windy weather did not prevent the Meerkats from enjoying the tidal pool.

The frolicking in the water made everyone peckish so the Meerkats prepared fruit skewers for everyone to enjoy.

With a very active start to the camp, taking time off to enjoy a craft activity, and making paper lanterns with LED tealights, was just



enough to recharge their batteries.

The Meerkats were in charge of making salads, corn on the cob, and bread. The corn and the bread did not make it to the plates, it was enjoyed around the fire, while the meat was on the braai.

The highlight of the camp started when the sun set and darkness covered the campsite.



1st muizenberg meerkats

Smores! A camp is not a camp without Smores! But that was just the beginning. The Meerkats went on a night expedition, some even took their lanterns on the walk. The first find not far from the tents was the scorpion, luckily we had a UV light in order for the Meerkats to see the beautiful glow, the excitement was contagious. Further along the night walk, we found more scorpions, a stick insect, a huge Baboon spider, a fully intact weaver bird's nest, and even a small leopard tortoise.



Off to bed, everyone went.

There were some early risers and just after 6am some Meerkats started to emerge from their tents.

Breakfast was ready at 8am, flapjack with blueberries and maple syrup was on the menu which this was everyone's favourite.

We ended the camp with Boeresport comprising a Potato Race, Water relay, Sack race, and tug-o-war.

According to the Meerkats the highlights of the camp were scorpion hunting, night walk, the tug-o-war and the beach.

What we take away from this camp is how quickly and easily friendships were formed. The parents were all hands-on and involved in specific tasks given to them.



This amazing camp could not have been such a great success without the help from Toni (ADS at 1st Muizenberg), Avril (ADS at 1st Muizenberg), Nazeema (ADS at 1st Muizenberg), Khaleel (ADS at 1st Muizenberg), Megan (currently a Parent Helper at 1st Muizenberg, 1st Fish Hoek ADS for 2023), Germaine (DS at DK Sea Scouts), Mandy (ADS at DK Sea Scouts), Dean (Scout at 1st Muizenberg), Sarah (Meerkat Instructor 1st Muizenberg), and Hannah (Meerkat Instructor at 1st Muizenberg)

Thank you to everyone.

Marihett Bredenkamp - Den Scouter 1st Muizenberg

hawequas fynbos restoration

The Hawequas Fynbos Restoration Project strives to control alien plants that occur at our Western Cape Region flagship campsite. What is required by us?

Enthusiasm and Knowledge

Enthusiasm is essential, but must be combined with knowledge.

Knowledge is needed to identify and appreciate indigenous ecosystems and to know why it is important to conserve them. Knowledge enables one to know how to identify and deal with each invasive plant.



Resources

People are the most important resource. Without people nothing will happen.

Adequate tools and herbicides are important for controlling invasive plants effectively. Knowledge is essential to use herbicides effectively.

Money is a resource that is very scarce at Hawequas. Thank you to the faithful donors who keep the wages for the casual workers coming in. Without you very little would be happening!

Follow Up

Regular re-clearing of initially cleared areas is essential. If one does not intend to carry out regular re-clearing, then the big, initial effort is just a waste of time and resources!

Clearing River Courses

Involves heavy work with dense, old stands of Black Wattle in the Spruit River. It is the opposite of working economically, but it is important to clear river courses of invasive plants. This will also enhance Scouts reputation as a caring land owner with the water users downstream.



hawequas fynbos restoration

Creating Symbiotic Partnerships with External Parties

Kuba allowed a private contractor to fell and remove all of the Pines which were killed or survived the 2017 wildfire. This has made it practically possible to get to the invasive plants which were previously inaccessible. This was done at no cost to Scouts SA, and the contractor cut and poisoned some Black Wattle under the cliffs high up on the property as a token of appreciation.



Understanding Fire

There are areas where it is very difficult to even get to the invasive plants because of the burnt, fallen trees. We will probably have to wait for the next wildfire to get rid of the fallen trees which are hindering access to invasive plants. The authorities are no longer capable of assisting private land owners with controlled burning. Fynbos needs to be burnt! The question is when?

Of interest, Kuba had a large area of the pine that burnt in the 2017 fire cut, stacked and burnt. While this might have been seen as an expensive exercise, this area is so much easier to walk through to clear invasive seedlings. There is nothing left to fall over!



hawequas fynbos restoration

Training People

Thank you to all of the people who have given up their time to remove invasive plants at Hawequas, be it community service projects or during the Conservation Badge course. Without enthusiastic people the conservation programme at Hawequas will die and all the gains made thus far will be wasted! That is why the Conservation Badge Course is so important. Hopefully, enough Scouts, who have attended and will still attend future courses, will form a group and use their enthusiasm and knowledge to look after plant conservation at Hawequas in the future!

We have to help ourselves. Nobody else will.

John Wilson - Hawequas Alien Control Manager

(Ed. Should you wish to contribute to this project please use SnapScan with bank reference FYN <your name> or make payment to:

Scouts SA Western Cape

Standard Bank of SA

All Branches

Account: 070863660)



helderberg fun run

The cubs of the Helderberg district took part in the annual Helderberg district cub fun run on the 15th October.

The event was hosted by the newly established Helderberg rover crew. The cubs spent their Saturday morning running 1.7km around Radloff park in Somerset West.

The cubs of 2nd Somerset west placed number one overall for the fun run. However, the winning cub was from 1st Gordon's bay.

We would like to thank all the parents that helped out and all the cubs who participated. As well as a big thank you to the Helderberg district crew for organising this event for the cubs we hope to see more involvement from the rovers in the future.

Amber van Niekerk - Rover Helderberg District



claremont meerkats on camp

The Meerkats from 1st and 4th Claremont Fernwood with their siblings and families went camping at Appleton on Signal Hill in November. This was the first time that the National Meerkat Camp had a camp out option and we took full advantage. It was a fun filled weekend. We went on a hike to see the view from the Hill looking down over Cape Town and identified many sights such as the Cable Car, the Docks with ships coming and out, Robben Island and the Stadium. While the parents took care of the braaing, the Meerkats played games, tug 'o war and made beautiful mandalas from items found on the walk. The campfire was a real hit with everyone, singing the songs we'd practised all year.

Camping was done in Burrows and the parents really enjoyed relaxing with each other while the Meerkats ran free in beautiful surroundings. Of course, everyone was up with the sun the next day. Freshly made pancakes were on offer as we struck the tents. After an animal game and a reflective Meerkats Own, we went home happy and tired, but ready to do it all again next year.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont



claremont meerkats camping



4th claremont growing

As we look forward to the exciting adventures which await in 2023, it is worth reflecting on the events which were highlights of the last term this year. We have had a busy term with our Group's Birthday, the Meerkat National camp, and a Cub hike to the Scout Hut.

The Meerkat Camp was part of the National Meerkat Camp and it was well attended by 4th Claremont and the Region as a whole. This cool camp was held at the Appleton Scout Camp on Signal Hill. At the Pack, our Cubs recently hiked up to the Scout hut on Table Mountain along with our friends at 1st Claremont Cub Pack, and had a very exciting time at the Scout Hut, and then trekked down Nursery Ravine into Kirstenbosch. I'm sure that these adventures will form great memories and experiences for all involved.

On 27 October 2022 we celebrated a full year of operations since our first meeting, held last year, when the Cub Pack kicked off.

Since then, we have grown exponentially – a Meerkat Den and a Scout Troop opened (now with 21 Scouts and growing rapidly), and the Cub Pack has gone from strength to strength.

We had a fantastic celebration with the Group joining together to celebrate this milestone. A huge thank you to Christine (APS) and Haidee Kingston (committee) for the fabulous cakes!

This year would be, in theory, the Group's 75th birthday as it was started in 1947 in the grounds of Western Province prep. In 1964 the Hall was built at the current premises (take a peek at the plaque at the front of the Hall when next you visit!) and the Group thundered along until the early 2000s when it closed for lack of adult support. Since then the property hasn't been used for Scouting, until... 4th Claremont (version 2) began operations...a year ago! We were sent some photos from an ex-scout which shows the Group in operation many decades ago.

Peter Otzen - Scout Group Leader 4th Claremont



1st durbanville goes solar

What a fantastic turn out at our Scouts Go Solar event on Saturday, 26 November! No fewer than 38 scouts (out of our troop of 46 scouts) participated. Sean and Renate, assisted by parent helpers Marcel and Ursula, ran the event at the 1st Durbanville Scout Hall.

Our scouts unanimously agreed that using a magnifying glass to start a fire was the most enjoyable activity of them all! Each and every scout was successful in starting a small fire in this way. Pyromaniacs! Another activity which they all enjoyed was finding an approximate north bearing by using only a wristwatch, a stick and lines drawn in the sand.



They were intrigued when they saw how polarized sunglasses work differently to non-polarized sunglasses, but they were completely blown away when three sets of polarized lenses were used to demonstrate the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle.

The scouts also had fun giving practical demonstrations to explain why dark coloured objects are hotter when under the sun.



1st durbanville goes solar



The second most enjoyed activity was building a reflective solar cooker and cooking an egg in it. Some were more successful than others, but everyone enjoyed it! Much fun was had when they made sundials and used them to tell the time.

In addition to all the fun

activities, there were a few information sessions and academic applications. Some of these included a display showcasing 5 different types of leaves which were discussed, named and labelled. We pinpointed the existing major renewable energy sources in South Africa and Africa and installed a mirror-based device to illuminate a part of our Scout Hall.

The scouts participated in an emergency scenario involving the treatment of sunburn, sunstroke, dehydration and heat exhaustion. We discussed why being in the sun can lead to a suntan and how this is different from getting sunburn; what melanin is and why populations from different locations have different skin colours; what the term "carcinogenic" means, what UV-B radiation does to DNA and what the Ozone layer is.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



springbok scouts

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:



Pieter Janse van Rensburg
1st Somerset West



Emma Belcher
2nd Bergvliet



Alexander Clark
1st Claremont

"I am a Leader of Scouts!"

We lead Patrols and Troop on a number of projects that challenged us

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